

WHITMAN IS SILENT ON SERVICE BOARDS

Wants Legislature to Act First on Report Finding Cause for Removals.

NOT AFRAID OF THE 'BUCK'

ALBANY, April 20.—Gov. Whitman declined to-night to make public his opinion on the report of the Thompson Public Service Commission investigating committee, which practically recommended the removal of both up-State and city boards.

The Governor takes the position that the Legislature should have every opportunity to take such action on the report as it deems fit before the matter is brought to his attention. He pointed out that he had no desire to interfere with the functions of the Legislature.

It was suggested to the Governor that the Legislature might "pass the buck" to him on the matter.

"I am used to having the buck passed to me," replied the Governor laughingly, "and sometimes I pass it back."

The context of the report on the up-State Public Service Commission would indicate that the matter of removals had been left to the Governor. The report pointed out that there was too late for the Legislature to undertake any fundamental changes in the law and that the Thompson committee would ask to be continued in order to investigate the public service boards more fully.

May All Hold Jobs.

One of the grounds for the removal of a Public Service Commission is inefficiency, and the report pointed out to the Governor that the up-State Public Service Commission had been inefficient in their dealings with corporations. The Governor's refusal to make any comment upon the report leaves it in doubt whether or not he will remove any of the Commissioners.

The Thompson report says that the "removal of a Commissioner from office upon the charge of inefficiency does not imply moral turpitude." In discussing the inefficiency as the committee believed the term referred to Public Service Commissioners, it is stated in the report that a Commissioner is inefficient in the following cases:

"If he neglects to enforce compliance with orders of the commission; if he neglects to properly supervise subordinates under his control; if he neglects to give prompt attention to complaints filed with the commission; if he fails to give proper hearings and prompt determinations of such complaints; if he fails to give the State his entire time in the performance of his duties; if he becomes out of sympathy with the purpose of the public service commissions."

"The best available information leads to the conviction that nothing short of supervision over the rates and service of all kinds of public utilities should be provided by the State," declares the majority report. "The law as it stands is not adequate to meet the expectations of the public and to that extent has failed."

Sentiment for Change.

The committee does not make any specific recommendation as to a change in the makeup of the commissions, but says it found "some sentiment in favor of a single commission of seven members, some sentiment in favor of two commissions of three members each, instead of five each, and some sentiment in favor of creating a commission that will be a judicial body."

The commission urges that the Public Service Commissions be non-partisan.

There was much surprise here at the tone of the report. All the Republican members signed the report.

Almost in so many words the committee told the Governor that he should remove the Democratic Commissioners for inefficiency, at the same time stating that they were not attempting to decide the cases of the New York City Commissioners, against whom are made charges of neglect of duty, misconduct and inefficiency.

A conference of the legislative leaders with the Governor is expected to take place to-morrow with the idea of mapping out a programme for changes in the Public Service Commissions. The Legislature would like to know what the Governor intends to do, and so far he hasn't informed any one.

BONDS OF \$27,000,000 FOR CANAL ARE URGED

Governor Refuses to Add \$4,000,000 More to the \$18,000,000 Direct Tax.

ALBANY, April 20.—Senator Sage and Assemblyman Alexander Macdonald, chairman of the Finance and Ways and Means Committee, introduced a bill to-day proposing a new bond issue of \$27,000,000 for completing the large canal construction work and paying claims against the State for damage to lands and water.

The Legislature is expected to appropriate \$4,000,000 this week to pay for completing the work on large canal contracts already let, but contracts still to be let are to be paid for out of the proceeds of the new bond issue which is to be submitted to the people next election.

A direct State tax of \$3,000,000 for large canal purposes this year would not be a wise plan, the Governor advised Senator Hill, representing the Buffalo Canal Associations, to-day. State Engineer Williams agreed. He said that any direct tax to raise more than \$4,000,000 for the expenses of existing contracts would be unwise at present. The direct tax proposed now, without the additional \$4,000,000 to complete large canal contracts, will amount to \$18,000,000. The additional appropriation would bring it up to \$22,000,000. The Governor pointed out that the increase by \$4,000,000 of the proposed direct tax would bring another storm of protest, just as the announcement that an \$18,000,000 direct tax was necessary did in the first place.

"The claim that we don't need any direct tax is like juggling the multiplication table," remarked the Governor. "The figures and facts are there and that's all there is to it."

ELECTION LAW TO STAND.

No Tinkering to Be Done This Session, It Is Agreed.

ALBANY, April 20.—Legislators who have introduced bills regulating election law amendments conferred with Gov. Whitman to-day and the result of the conference was an agreement not to undertake any fundamental changes in the election law at this session.

Assemblymen Stoddard and Everett and Senator McGowan also conferred with Governor Whitman. The conference with Edward R. Finch, representing the New York Ballot Association,

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POLICEWOMEN VOTED AS JOKE ON NEW YORK

Bill Slips Through State Senate While Members Have Fun With It.

ALBANY, April 20.—The Senate, by a vote of 28 to 17, to-night passed the Jones bill which provides for the appointment of as many policewomen in New York city as the Board of Estimate and Apportionment will make appropriations for.

The Senate had a good time during discussion on the measure, which was reported from committee more as a joke than anything else, and there was surprise when it was found that the bill had been passed.

Senator Jones urged that a few good women be made policewomen to watch over the many young and innocent women who go to New York city.

"You should find a way to save some of the boys who come from up State to visit us," said Senator Walker, Democrat of Manhattan. Democratic Leader Wagner and Senator Boylan, Democrat of New York, said New York city didn't need any police women.

"The bill fixes the age limit at 30 years, and the minimum age of 18 years," said Senator Boylan.

"We have many women in New York who go to bed at 9 o'clock," Senator Boylan added. "They have their own parlors, their family organs, and whether you believe it or not, many do not live at the lobster palaces."

Republican Leader Brown thought it funny that a New York Senator should provide police women for New York when he (Senator Jones) the other day objected when Democratic Leader Wagner said the Legislature should not permit police women to work seven days a week in canning factories in Senator Jones's district.

Senator Jones declared that the bill was handed to him by a woman who said she represented 300,000 women in New York and who said the Police Commissioner, the President of the Board of Aldermen and the District Attorney favored the bill.

It is thought that the Assembly will kill the bill.

DRY BILL BEATEN AGAIN.

Assembly Refuses to Force a Report on Measure.

ALBANY, April 20.—The statewide local option bill got another setback in the Assembly to-day. By a vote of 51 yeas to 71 nays the House refused to override the Rules Committee and force a report on the Fish bill.

The Democrats voted almost solidly against the measure made by Assemblyman Hamilton Fish of Putnam to discharge the Rules Committee, but the Republican side split.

Democratic Leader Alfred E. Smith of New York and Republican Leader Harold J. Hinman of Albany opposed the motion.

Mr. Smith said he recently sent a similar report that had gone "dry" and "barber charged double price for a shave and then treated his customers to a 'morning's morning'."

"The bill would be a fine vehicle for blackmail in New York city," Mr. Smith declared.

DEMOCRATS SAVE G. O. P. BILL.

Measure for Water Storage Districts Just Squeezes Through.

ALBANY, April 20.—With the aid of Democratic votes the State Senate passed to-day by a vote of 28 to 15 the bill of Senator Wood permitting the creation of local water storage districts under the supervision of local boards and a State board at Albany, comprising the State Conservation Commissioner, the Attorney-General and the State Engineer.

There is no hydroelectric development power conferred by the bill, it simply permits the contracting of water storage reservoirs for regulating the flow of rivers, but the electric development of the water powers thus formed is contemplated.

FULL CREW REPEAL PASSED.

State Senate Favors Measure by Vote of 30 to 18.

ALBANY, April 20.—A bill which practically repeals the full crew law was passed to-day by the Senate by a vote of 30 yeas to 18 nays.

"The full crew act was a foolish law to enact from a business standpoint," declared Senator Brown. "If the question were to be submitted to a vote of the people it would be defeated by half a million votes."

Sensors Wagner and Boylan pointed out that the proposed change was applied neither to the railroads nor their employees.

\$500,000 FOR A CONSTITUTION.

Governor Also Signs Bill for 70 Hour Week for Grocery Clerks.

ALBANY, April 20.—Senator Sage's bill appropriating \$500,000 for the expenses and salaries of the delegates to the constitutional convention was signed by Gov. Whitman to-day.

Under the terms of another bill signed by the Governor it is unlawful to employ clerks and assistants in grocery stores any longer than seventy hours in any one week or any more than eleven hours a day except Saturday, when they may be employed fifteen hours to eliminate Sunday work.

NEW 'JOKER' IN WATER BILL.

New York Supposed to Be Favored, But Isn't.

ALBANY, April 20.—It was asserted to-night that a new "joker" had been found in the Baxter bill regulating water companies and putting them under the Public Service Commissions.

The bill provides that in certain cases municipalities shall not be permitted to purchase or acquire private water companies. An amendment was inserted so that the bill would not apply to New York city, but it has been found that the amendment says "this article shall not apply to the city of New York, while the real harm is done by another section of the bill still applying to New York city.

The defeated fifteen hours to eliminate Sunday work.

WHITMAN TO HELP PURGE HAYVERSTRAW

Will Have Deputy Attorney-General Aid in Prosecuting Cleary Case.

NO NEED FOR GRAND JURY

ALBANY, April 20.—Gov. Whitman said to-night that he would ask Attorney-General Woodbury to designate a deputy Attorney-General to assist District Attorney Gagan in prosecuting actions which may result from the investigations of the accounts of William V. Cleary as Town Clerk of Haverstraw.

The Governor conferred with a delegation of Rockland county residents who came to-day to ask him to direct a special Grand Jury to look into the accounts of Cleary and prosecute other indictments obtained in Rockland county in the past few years.

The Governor said he did not feel that the situation called for a special Grand Jury yet.

The Governor also said that he would see to it that any indictments found by the grand jury would be prosecuted. He added that if developments warrant it later, he will empanel a special Grand Jury. The delegation submitted a brief to the Governor as follows:

Rockland county is at present facing a situation to relieve which no ordinary methods will suffice. The citizens of the county, since the presentation of a formal petition with 3,000 signatures, have done and are now doing their utmost to follow out the admonition of the Governor to clean up their own house, but find that without the support of the county officials charged with the presentation of crime and the prosecution thereof their efforts are unavailing.

The brief called attention to the fact that Bart Dunn, convicted and sentenced for highway frauds, had never gone to jail; that William Whyard was incarcerated for a year and a half, but never brought to trial; that George Houghtaling was murdered and no one apprehended for his murder, and cited the report of the State Comptroller on the financial affairs of the county, discrepancies which had not been presented to the Grand Jury.

BART DUNN STILL IN HIDING.

Falls to Obey Order of the Court of Appeals.

Up to the time court adjourned at New City last evening District Attorney Thomas Gagan had received no word regarding the whereabouts of Bart Dunn, Tammany leader and road contractor, who it was reported, was to come out of hiding yesterday.

Dunn has been ordered by the Court of Appeals, which is about to decide Gagan's motion to dismiss his appeal from conviction on the charge of road grafting in Rockland county, to make known his present place of abode and present an affidavit showing his mental and physical condition. Dunn disappeared when the Appellate Division affirmed his conviction, leaving word he was ill and would surrender himself when he regained his health.

CANNERY BILLS ARE BURIED.

Senate Shelves Them After Assembly Killed Measure.

ALBANY, April 20.—The bills to permit summer children under 18 years of age to work seventy-two hours a week in canneries were recommitted to-day in the Senate. The Assembly has already voted to discharge the Rules Committee and the Senate today means that they will not be brought before the Senate to-day.

"I imagine," said Senator Thompson, "that the children under 18 years of age who work in the canneries will be glad to see the bills go to the graveyard."

The bills were introduced by Senator Smith of New York and Senator Boylan of New York. They were introduced to-day in the Senate. The Assembly has already voted to discharge the Rules Committee and the Senate today means that they will not be brought before the Senate to-day.

AUTO ROUTE TO THE COAST CUT.

U. S. Gets Old Tioga Road in Yosemite and Will Repair It.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Action taken by the Secretary of the Interior will result in shortening the automobile route to the Pacific coast. The Secretary has authorized the construction of a new road to the old Tioga road from the Mono Lake section of the east slope of the Sierra Nevada straight across Yosemite National Park to the village of Sequoia or Crocker, Cal., where it connects with State roads leading west to San Francisco.

The route will be available after reports to westbound motorists early in July as a short cut to the Yosemite Valley and the Nevada goldfields instead of the much longer route by way of Reno or the long desert route by way of Mojave.

URUGUAY SENDS DELEGATES.

Banquet Given Before Their Departure for This Country.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The Legation of Uruguay has received a cable from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay stating that Dr. Carlos Maria de Pena, Minister to the United States; Senator Pedro de Arco, Minister of Finance; and Dr. Gabriel Terra, a prominent member of Congress, have been appointed delegates to the Pan-American financial conference to be held here on May 24 next.

The cable adds that representative members of banking, commercial and industrial institutions gave on April 16, the day before the departure of the delegates for the United States, a banquet to Minister Cosío. Speeches were made praising the selection of the delegates, whose experience and thorough acquaintance with the financial and economic matters make sure the success of the Uruguayan mission.

Minister Cosío answered setting forth as an illustration of the harmony of the financial policies of the United States and Uruguay the fact that both countries were the only ones on the American continent which abstained from the decrease of interest rates and the outbreak of the European war.

SILENT TREATMENT FOR VON BERNSTORFF'S NOTE

Administration Believes Censure of Press Has Brought Plan of Attack on United States Neutral Policy to an End.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Administration officials believe the Von Bernstorff memorandum has ended instead of started a disagreeable discussion of the neutrality of the United States in the exportation of arms to the Allies.

The absolute silence officially on the German note of three weeks ago has been based on the theory that time alone would accomplish a good deal. It is believed that the censure with which the Von Bernstorff communication was received by the American press has had the effect of putting an end to what was regarded as the beginning of a general propaganda of reflection on the sincerity of this Government's policy. That the expression of American opinion on the subject was so pronounced that it would be difficult for German influences ever to revive a general discussion of the subject is the belief here.

From the first the Administration has vigorously prosecuted the note. It is possible. What this Government is most trying to do these days is to keep out of trouble, and the Von Bernstorff memorandum was regarded as a threat just about the easiest path into difficulties that has been faced since the war began. Consequently it was determined that there should be no hasty or precipitate action.

In Wilson's Hands.

The situation was reviewed and various suggestions were made by officials of the State Department, and then the whole matter was put into the President's hands, where it is now awaiting the result of his deliberations.

Meantime it is felt the elapse of time since the publication of the note has not only clearly indicated how the country views the matter but has made it much less dangerous for the United States to act in the situation. It is likely, however, that the reply of the United States will be delayed some time further. Viewing the memorandum as merely a personal communication from Ambassador von Bernstorff, the incident was not such a serious one, but it has always been appreciated here that whether or not the Berlin Government inspired the communication the

DOUBT IF U. S. FLEET WILL MAKE CANAL TRIP

Culebra Cut Conditions and War Situation May Prevent July Voyages.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Officials here admitted to-day that there was some doubt of uncertainty about the plans to send the Atlantic fleet through the Panama Canal next July.

Secretary Daniels is now consulting Major-General George W. Goetz, Governor of the Canal Zone, with regard to conditions likely to prevail in Culebra cut next July. If there is a postponement, the reason assigned will be that the condition in Culebra cut will not make advisable the passage of the dreadnoughts, but it is felt that until there is some definite report on the situation in Europe it would be the part of wisdom for the United States to keep its fleet in the Atlantic.

At last reports only thirty feet of water was available in Culebra cut and it was only a short time ago that it was again closed to navigation. The battlements of the locks in this section of the canal and should have forty feet depth in the channel.

It would surprise no one here if Gov. Goetz had decided against sending the fleet through the canal next July.

The specifications are considered by naval aeronautical officers to represent about all that can be attempted at the outlet of the canal. The proposed machines are desired for use in an experimental way. Furthermore it was felt that the use of dirigibles would enable American manufacturers to get into the manufacture of dirigibles gradually.

The navy is convinced that the dirigible balloon will be found eventually to have a real value in warfare. Officers are satisfied that Germany's Zeppelins have justified themselves.

It is expressed here that the Navy Department, the aeroplane is counted on to do the scouting, while the dirigibles may be held in reserve to proceed to attack enemy submarines discovered by the air scouts. American officers believe that a fifty pound bomb, with a fuse set to explode on the surface or just below it, will destroy a submarine if exploded near the conning tower. It is believed also that dirigibles can be used to counter mine the mine fields of the enemy.

The opinion is held here that the present war shows that the demand of the air as well as of the land must be obtained to gain a victory on a large scale.

LOCKWOOD BILL UP TO-DAY.

Mayor Will Give Hearings—Robert W. de Forest Urges Veto.

Mayor Mitchell is to make up his mind whether or not to sign the Lockwood building inspection bill after a public hearing before him in the City Hall at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon.

A long letter urging him to veto the bill was received by him yesterday from Robert W. de Forest, who was the city's first Tenement House Commissioner under the present law. Mr. de Forest wrote that the measure should be disapproved, "if for no other reason than the one that it destroys at one blow the efficiency of the Tenement House Department and the city of New York."

The Tenement House Department, writes Mr. de Forest, is created for the very purpose of ending evils which the Lockwood bill might revive.

MEMBERS OF D. A. R. ASSAIL MRS. STORY

Ring Control Robs Western Women of Rights, Says Mrs. Guernsey.

APPEAL RAISES \$15,000

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Much hard feeling cropped out to-day at the congress of the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution among the partisans of the two candidates for the office of president-general.

Intimations were made by the supporters of Mrs. George T. Guernsey of Kansas that the administration of Mrs. William C. Story, the president-general, had dealt unfairly with its opponents. Sharp replies were made by the adherents of Mrs. Story.

Two committee reports were burdened with thinly veiled allegations of a lack of cooperation on the part of the president-general and other national officers.

In a statement issued to-day Mrs. Guernsey charged that the control of the society has been taken over by a comparatively few State delegations. She attacked the policy of Mrs. Story of holding monthly meetings of the national board, the dominating body of the society. Mrs. Guernsey insisted that this policy had virtually robbed Western members of the board of representation because of their inability to stand the expense of twelve trips to Washington a year.

Supporters of Mrs. Story have expressed great indignation over these charges, asserting that the president-general has been actuated by the highest motives.

Objections to a Report.

The first sign of trouble came during the reading of the report of Mrs. Charles Bassett of Baltimore, the historian-general. The objection was that statements in it seemingly criticized members of the national board.

For a few minutes there was a great uproar. Daughters got so excited that when they failed recognition they forgot what they wanted to say and all talked together. Mrs. Story poured oil on the troubled waters by telling the Daughters that they could not control what an officer put into his report and that all they had to do was to accept or reject it.

Mrs. Bassett explained then that she

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Vote on Officers To-day.

These officers were nominated to-night, the voting to begin to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. For president-general, Mrs. William C. Story of New York, now in office, and Mrs. George Guernsey of Kansas; chaplain-general, Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood, a founder of the society, unopposed; recording secretary-general, Mrs. John W. Langley of Kentucky and Mrs. William C. Boyie of Ohio; corresponding secretary-general, Mrs. J. C. Burrows of Michigan and Mrs. Woodbury Pulsifer of La District of Columbia; organizing secretary-general, Mrs. William A. Smoot of Alexandria, Va.; and Mrs. Horace Parker McIntosh of Virginia; treasurer-general, Mrs. Joseph E. Ramsdell of Louisiana and Mrs. Edward B. Kellogg of Florida; director-general, Miss Catherine Custis and Miss Grace M. Pierce, both of the District of Columbia; historian-general, Mrs. W. Augsbury, State regent of New York, and Mrs. George W. Hodges of Annapolis; librarian-general, Mrs. George M. Sternberg, now serving, and Mrs. Edward B. Kellogg of Florida; director-general, Miss Catherine Custis and Miss Grace M. Pierce, both of the District of Columbia; vice-presidents-general, Mrs. Kent Hamilton of Ohio, Mrs. S. Thorne of Colorado and Mrs. Rhett Goode of Alabama.

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